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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH 9834

S E C R E T RIYADH 001645

NOFORN
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DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA, DS/IP/ITA, CA, INR, AND DS/IP/SPC/MSG
RIYADH PASS TO DHAHRAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/01/2018
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [AMGT](#) [CACS](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: RIYADH EAC - 02 NOVEMBER 2008 (MARINE BALL &
ELECTION NIGHT EVENTS)

REF: A. DS/IP ACTION MEMO E-MAIL DATED 25 OCT 2008
[1](#)B. STATE 114666
[1](#)C. JEDDAH 00455

Classified By: CDA DAVID RUNDELL FOR REASON 1.4 (D).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Summary: On 02 November 2008, Acting DCM (A/DCM) convened a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) to review Post security posture and preparations made for two major events: The Election Watch slated for 05 November and the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Ball, to be held on 06 November 2008. The Committee agreed that security preparations are sufficient to allow for both events to safely occur. Also present were MGT, PD, POL, DAO, DHS, LEGAT, ECON, CONS, MSG, GSO, GRPO, POL/MIL, EXEC, IMO, AGR and RSO. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) The RSO opened the meeting with a short overview discussing the purpose of the EAC meeting. The EAC was convened to discuss any possible threat information that may impact on the two scheduled events, the Election Night Event and the Marine Corps Ball. The EAC members had no new threat information of concern specifically targeting the Mission or the two planned events. The EAC members were briefed by members of the Security Office on security preparations for each planned event.

[1](#)3. (SBU) The Election Watch, scheduled for 05 November, is a PD sponsored event to be held at the Ambassador's Residence on the Diplomatic Quarter from 0001 hrs to 0900 hrs. Approximately 1400 invitations distributed, to date, an estimated 230 guests have RSVP'd. This event is especially significant in that press and television coverage will be present and remarks by embassy staff will be on the record. The event will include live broadcasts by camera crews from Saudi Channel 2 and the BBC Arabic.

[1](#)4. (S) Security for this event includes a guest list, 100% ID check of guests and press and Embassy badging of all press members. Screening procedures for press, guests, vehicles and equipment includes the use of 2 U.S. Military K-9 units, Itemizer explosive detectors, Walk-Through Metal Detectors (WTMD), and a security staff to include a roving Surveillance Detection Unit, extra armed and unarmed Embassy Local Guard Force members, and all members of the RSO staff. Additional local Saudi police assets have also been formally requested, to supplement the existing Saudi police force assigned to protect the Ambassador's residence on a full-time basis.

[1](#)5. (SBU) Riyadh's Marine Corps Birthday Ball is scheduled for 06 November, 2008 from 1800 hrs. to 2400 hrs. 400 tickets have been sold for this event and a ticket is required to attend. The location of the Ball is the

Embassy's Formal Gardens on Embassy Compound.

16. (S) Aside from ticketing for guests, security for the Marine Ball includes a U.S. Military K-9 Team sweep of the venue and presence throughout the event, extra armed and unarmed Embassy Local Guard Force members, WTMD and removal of cell phones, presence of the roving Surveillance Detection Unit in the area, and armed members of the RSO staff. Additional local Saudi police assets have also been formally requested, to supplement the existing Saudi security force presence assigned full-time around the Embassy facility.

17. (S) To supplement Marine Security Guard coverage, one MSG from Jeddah and one MSG from Dhahran will supplement our MSG Detachment during this event. As an added precaution, half the Marine Security Guards (5) will remain response ready in the event they required for an emergency.

18. (S/NF) Riyadh's EAC members unanimously agreed that the security procedures in place are sufficient to allow for both events to occur, with no EAC members offering any additional guidance or suggestions.

9, (SBU) POC in this reporting is RSO Kimber E. Davidson at 966 1 488 3800 ext 4984 (open) or ext 4203 (secure).

RUNDELL